

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on July 27, 2005, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 24-29 added in the previous response have been amended to change the numbering of the claims to 45-50. Claims 1, 9, 10, 16, 17 and 21 were amended to provide correct antecedent basis for selected terms and to clarify that wider lines/structures are not fully oxidized. Claims 7-8 are canceled. Original claims 24-44 are withdrawn. As a result, claims 1-6, 9-23 and 45-50 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 9, 10, 17 and 21 were objected to because of the following informalities:

The phrase “oxidizing the wafer” lacks an antecedent basis for the word “wafer”.

Claims 19 and 20 were objected to because of the following informalities:

The word “lines” lacks an antecedent basis.

Claim 24 was objected to because of the following informalities:

In line 5, following the word “until”, the word “lines” lacks an antecedent basis.

Each of the above claims has been amended to address such objections.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-6, 9, 17, 19, 21 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by MacDonald, US 5,628,917. The independent claims have been amended to clarify that thicker lines are not fully oxidized. This is not shown in the reference, and reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 18, 20, 22, 23 and 25-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacDonald (U.S. 5,628,917) in view of Hoffman (U.S. 2004/0067346). These claims depend from independent claims that are now believed allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10-15 were objected to. Claim 10 has been amended to overcome the objection. Such amendment is not believed to be a narrowing amendment. The claims are now believed in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6972 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

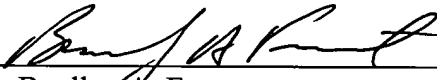
Respectfully submitted,

KANAKASABAPATHI SUBRAMANIAN ET AL.

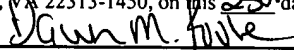
By their Representatives,

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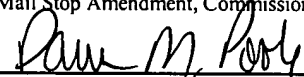
Date 10/25/2005

By 
Bradley A. Forrest
Reg. No. 30,837

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 25th day of October, 2005.



Name



Signature